



HR1345

LRB099 22247 GRL 49617 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to honor the soldiers of the 100th
4 Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment for their service during
5 the Civil War; and

6 WHEREAS, The 100th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment
7 was comprised almost entirely of soldiers from Will County and
8 was raised in Joliet, with Colonel Frederick Bartleson as its
9 commander; at the outbreak of the Civil War, he was an attorney
10 and had previously served as State's Attorney of Will County;
11 prior to forming the 100th, he served as Captain in the 20th
12 Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment and lost an arm at the
13 Battle of Shiloh; and

14 WHEREAS, The 100th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment
15 fought in the Western Theater, mainly in Tennessee and Georgia;
16 at the Battle of Chickamauga, Colonel Bartleson was captured
17 and the 100th lost 165 of its 315 soldiers; Colonel Bartleson
18 was held in the famous Libby Prison in Richmond, where we wrote
19 a poem on his experiences in the war and his hope for the
20 future, which included the eloquent lines: "Through the clouds
21 the sun is slowly breaking/Hope from her long deep sleep is
22 waking. Speed the time Father, when the bow of peace/Spanning
23 the Gulf, shall bid the tempest cease. When men, clasping each

1 other by the hand/ Shall shout together in a united land, All is
2 well"; and

3 WHEREAS, As an officer, Colonel Bartleson was allowed to be
4 paroled and sent back home to Joliet, where many urged him to
5 retire and run for office, with both parties promising him an
6 unopposed congressional run; in response, he stated:
7 "Gentlemen, the question is still unsettled whether we are to
8 have another Congress or a country. It can only be settled by
9 the success of our armies. Until it is settled, I want no
10 nomination and no office but the one I now hold, and I shall
11 return to my post and give my life if need be, to secure to us a
12 free government"; and

13 WHEREAS, Colonel Bartleson returned to the 100th Illinois
14 Volunteer Infantry Regiment in time for Sherman's Atlanta
15 Campaign; tragically, his cryptic words held true, and he was
16 killed by a sniper's bullet at Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia on
17 June 23, 1864; he was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Joliet,
18 where he lies today; and

19 WHEREAS, The Regimental Colors of the 100th Illinois
20 Volunteer Infantry Regiment were restored in partnership with
21 the Illinois State Military Museum in Springfield; a campaign
22 to return and display them to their home in Joliet began in
23 2012 by Joliet Area Historical Museum Board President Robert E.

1 "Bob" Kuzma; the colors will be dedicated on June 30, 2016; and

2 WHEREAS, Colonel Bartleson's sword, snuff box, and
3 portrait are also part of the display; while the exhibit is not
4 just about him, he and the Flag represent thousands of stories
5 of bravery, valor, and above all, sacrifice - not only from the
6 soldiers of the 100th, but of all soldiers, past, present, and
7 future; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
10 honor the soldiers of the 100th Illinois Volunteer Infantry
11 Regiment for their service during the Civil War and thank the
12 Joliet Area Historical Museum for restoring the Regimental
13 Colors of the Regiment to their home in Joliet; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the Joliet Area Historical Museum as a symbol of
17 our esteem and respect.